

USFK commander talks civilian personnel issues

Editor's Note: This is one in a series of monthly articles addressing issues and concerns of military forces serving within U.S. Forces Korea. USFK Commander, Gen. Thomas Schwartz, routinely visits soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines stationed on the Korean peninsula and conducts sensing sessions to receive feedback on issues ranging from military service to quality of life. Gen. Schwartz seeks to make serving in Korea an assignment of choice and uses sensing sessions as a means of focusing the USFK and service component commanders and staffs. The following topics were raised during recent visits. Not all issues can be corrected immediately and will require carrying them as ongoing CINC projects, with progress published routinely in this publication. Other issues are awaiting responses and will be reported in future releases.

**Question:** What is there to ensure adequate medical care for the Department of Defense civilians? In the United States the processing center for Emergency Essential Civilians makes sure that your required information is on your identification card. That's not the case here.

**Response:** DOD civilians and EECs are authorized emergency medical care, treatment after on-the-job injuries, medical exams, and inpatient detoxification services. EECs receive medical examinations at no cost to the individual. Also, EECs deploying in an overseas theater of operations that require treatment for disease or injury sustained during hostilities receive medical care at no cost to the individual.

Employees selected as EECs must meet specific medical fitness and physical requirements of the job. A new supplemental in-processing checklist for EECs is currently being developed. The in-processing checklist is updated as required, and reviewed, at a minimum, during bi-annual command inspections. At the time a job

offer is extended, Department of Defense Form 2365, DOD Civilian Employee Overseas Emergency Essential Position Agreement, and the anthrax supplemental agreement are used to ensure that the EECs are aware of their conditions of employment and their entitlements.

**Question:** DOD civilians in the United States get paid more than DOD civilians in Korea. Why is the pay scale different?

**Response:** DOD employees overseas are normally compensated at a higher rate than employees in the United States. Employees overseas receive Living Quarters Allowance, which pays almost all housing and utility costs. Employees in the continental United States receive a locality pay in addition to base pay in accordance with the Federal Employee Pay Comparability Act of 1990.

Locality pay only partially offsets increased cost of living. Locality pay is intended to provide pay equity for government service employees with private employers within their particular labor market. Civil service employees in foreign areas receive base pay, plus certain overseas allowances provided for under Department of State regulations. They do not receive locality pay, which is only available to those in CONUS. The types of allowances available in Korea include: LQA, Foreign Post Differential, Post Allowance and Separate Maintenance Allowance. While locality pay was designed to provide pay equity for areas in CONUS, it does not equate to the amounts authorized for living quarters allowance in the overseas areas. Essentially, the locality pay helps to offset housing costs while the living quarters allowance virtually covers all housing and utility costs in the CONUS areas. In some overseas areas, employees also may receive foreign post differential and/or a post allowance in addition to the living quarters allowance.

Is one night of fun worth this?

By Airman Basic Amber Chaffey  
Air Combat Command/Regional Supply Squadron

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. – I'm writing this article to inform and warn people firsthand what happened to me.

My name is Amber Chaffey, and, until recently, I was an airman 1st class. I came to Langley Air Force Base from technical school. When I first got here I made some really bad decisions.

The first weekend I was here I took ecstasy with an airman living in the dorm; the next weekend I smoked marijuana with the same airman. I knew it was wrong before, during and after I did it, but I just did it without thinking of the consequences and what it would put me through for the next six months.

The day after I smoked marijuana, I knew I should have thought before I acted, so I quit and never looked at drugs again. I didn't want my Air Force career to start like this. Three weeks later the Office of Special Investigations took me in and questioned me and I confessed. I knew my Air Force career was going down the drain, and it had just started.

Even though I knew I was getting kicked out of the service, I still ironed my uniform and shined my boots every day. I went to work with a positive attitude. Most of the people I worked with didn't know my situation until I told them months down the road.

I was always on time and learned my job to the best of my ability, regardless of not being able to start on my career development course.

Noncommissioned officers soon put more responsibilities on me, for instance, training new airmen. I trained about 10 airmen.

In court, the prosecutors argued that you're expected to do an excellent job at work. It's a known fact in

the world that 80 percent of the people do 20 percent of the work and the remaining 20 percent do 80 percent of the work. This also appears in the Air Force.

Sure, you're expected to do an awesome job, but I didn't have to do all of what I did in the office. I just wanted this career so bad. I didn't care if I was getting kicked out. I still wanted to do an awesome job.

Six anguishing months passed while I wondered what was going to happen to me. Often I cried to my fiancé. I knew the career that my parents and I were so proud of was over. I didn't even tell my parents until a week before the court-martial because I felt so ashamed of myself, and I didn't want to disappoint them.

They accepted it and stood behind me.

The court-martial was Feb. 8. My dad flew in from California to testify and support me. Over the past few months, I got together 26 letters from people I worked with and had three NCOs testify for me. The court-martial was a long and grueling 12 hours. Luckily, I had the support of my fiancé, dad and just about my entire office.

The jury finally decided. I was going to jail for

30 days and getting a bad conduct discharge. I went straight to the courthouse with my first sergeant and I was off to jail.

I'm writing this to ask people one question: Is one night of fun worth destroying your career and following you for the rest of your life? It's not worth it.

Jail isn't easy and trying to find a job after spending time there isn't going to be easy with a bad conduct discharge on my record. It's just not worth it.

Commander's Hotline

The commander's hotline is your direct line of communication between me and the Wolf Pack. It's one of several means of helping to resolve concerns and to get my response to comments and questions. As a general rule, I ask you to contact the agency involved first, but if you are not satisfied, call the hotline at 782-5284, e-mail the 8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs office or e-mail me directly.



Col. Burt Field  
8th Fighter Wing commander

<b>Who to call</b>	
Base exchange.....	782-4520
Chapel.....	782-4300
Civil engineer squadron customer service.....	782-5318
Commissary manager.....	782-4144
Computer help desk.....	782-2666
Fitness center.....	782-4026
Housing office.....	782-4088
Inspector General.....	782-4850
IDEA office.....	782-4020
Law enforcement desk.....	782-4944
Legal assistance.....	782-4283
Military equal opportunity.....	782-4055
Military pay.....	782-5574
Military personnel flight customer service.....	782-5276
Medical patient advocate.....	782-4014



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